

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A Verse by Verse Study

by

Oliver B. Greene

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CHAPTER SIXTEEN

The Seven Vials of the Wrath of God

Revelation 16:1

1. And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

This chapter opens with a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, “**Go . . . your ways.**”

Each angel had a specific set of orders. They were to go their separate ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. There is no mistake regarding the place where the contents of the vials are to be poured.

As we closed chapter 15, we saw the temple in Heaven filled with smoke . . . smoke from the glory of God. The temple was so filled that nothing inside could be seen and no one could enter there. Nothing could deter the coming judgment. There was a heavenly blackout, so to speak. There was no place for intercession, no place for a blood offering. There was no place for mercy!

Judgment in its final bitterness must come immediately . . . there could be no further delay. During the pouring out of the vials of wrath, God is hidden in the dark cloud of His glory, inside His temple . . . His house. God cannot be found until the seven angels have completed their missions - the pouring out of the contents of the vials given to each of them. Read Exodus 40:34-35, where, in the dedication of the tabernacle, Moses could not enter into the tent of the congregation “**because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.**” In I Kings 8:10-11, when the temple and its services were inaugurated, the priests could not enter, “**for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord.**”

In our chapter in Revelation, it is not the glory of the Lord that fills the temple, but “**the smoke of the glory of the Lord.**” We have the glory of God in judgment here. In Revelation we have the terms, “**voice . . . voices . . . strong voice . . . loud voice . . . great voice.**” Each of these terms has a special significance. Where you find “**voice**” in Revelation, it is in reference to Christ, to God, to angels, to the living creatures, to the altar, or to the throne, etc. The word “**voices**” is found eight times in Revelation, and in seven of these times they have to do with God’s judgment (Revelation 4:5; 8:5-13b; 10:3, 4; 11:19; 16:18).

“Strong voice” in Revelation 18:2, “loud voice” in Revelation 5:2, and “great voice” in Revelation 16:1 and 21:3 all describe the character of the voice which is speaking. It is either the “great voice” of God Himself, or else He is speaking through an angel.

This “great voice” which came from the temple (the holiest spot of all) is tremendously stirred to holy wrath by those things which have been taking place on earth during the last half of the Tribulation, when Antichrist sounds out such blasphemy as Heaven, earth, nor hell have never known. God’s wrath burns fiercely, and that fierce wrath must be poured out. The number of angels is seven, signifying divine completeness. These seven vials are not filled with incense - but with wrath and fury. They were filled in the temple by Almighty God Himself . . . the holy, righteous One of Heaven and of earth. The seven angels stand by, vials in hand, ready to move upon God’s command. The “great voice” gives that command: **“Pour out your vials upon the earth!”** (The same voice announces the completion of the judgments in Revelation 16:17.)

Note the command to go and pour out - not “in part” - but to the last bitter drop. **“Empty your vials to the last drop, upon the earth!”** (Read Zephaniah 3:8, Psalm 69:24, and Jeremiah 10:25). The seven last plagues seem to be an answer to Israel’s prayer, **“Render unto our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O Lord”** (Psalm 79:12).

These seven vials are to be poured out upon all the earth - not just on one locality, but every square inch of this earth.

THE FIRST VIAL

Revelation 16:2:

2. **“And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.”**

In this verse, the first vial is poured out upon the earth. We know where and what the earth is, and there is no point in spiritualizing this statement. When the angel poured out his vial, a running sore came upon men who bore the mark of the Beast and upon them who worshipped his image.

In Revelation 8 we read, **“The first angel . . . the second angel . . .”**, etc. But here in Revelation 16:2 we read only **“the first,”** signifying that the contents of the vials are rapidly poured out, that judgments are short and follow in rapid succession. **“Except those days should be shortened, there would be no flesh saved”** (Matthew 24:22).

The first vial contained running, grievous sores, which reminds us of the Egyptian plague in the days of Moses. The sores in Egypt were the sixth plague, and the first to be inflicted upon man. (The previous ones were not directed to the bodies of men.) The sore in Moses’ day was a terrible, loathsome disease. Read Deuteronomy 28:27-35.

The God of Moses' day is the God of Revelation. The God of Pharaoh's day is the God of this day. If God poured out sores upon the ungodly men of Egypt, it will be no hard task for Him to again inflict people with running sores.

The Beast had influenced all the earth. The group designated here consists of the Beast-worshippers and those who had received his mark. These vials are to be poured out upon all the earth, and from that I gather that the mark of the Beast (and the Beast-worshippers) reaches throughout the universe. It began in Jerusalem, but quickly spread to the four corners of the earth.

The mark of the Beast is a ticket for those who wear it to be covered with running sores. At the time the vials will be poured out, there will be a very small remnant of God's elect on earth. Again I quote, "**Except those days were shortened, there would no flesh be saved**"; not one person would be spared.

The sores will be "**evil and grievous**" - a bad ulcer.

The Greek word signifies a sore that gives off highly offensive odors. Words cannot describe the despicable condition and the awfulness of such a plague. Will YOU be here? Dear friend, if you are not saved, you could be. If you are born again you will not be. If you do not know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are born again, bow your head and give your heart to Jesus right now.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." This terrible judgment of sores precedes the fall of Babylon which occurs in verse 19. The everlasting torment of the Beast worshippers (chapter 14:9-10) succeeds the fall of Babylon.

Notice please, the vials and the trumpets are alike in some respects but different in others. In the first four of each, the sphere of operation is the same . . . the earth, the sea, the rivers and fountains of water, and the sun. But in the trumpet judgments the area is restricted to "**a third part**." The area affected under the vials is altogether different. No third or fourth part is mentioned. The whole earth will be affected . . . every square inch of it . . . and the Judgments under the vials are much more severe than the trumpet judgments.

No one escapes the judgments of the vials of the wrath of God.

Will you be covered with running sores one day, or will you be with Jesus when this terrible plague comes to earth?

THE SECOND VIAL

Revelation 16:3:

3. And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the Blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.

I believe the vials will be poured out in rapid succession.

The first vial will be poured, and the second vial will immediately follow. In Exodus 7:17-25 the rivers of Egypt turned to blood . . . literal blood, not spiritual nor symbolic blood! Some symbolize the Blood, but why should I? I believe the sea will actually turn to blood "**as the blood of a dead man**," just as the Bible tells us. It is so strange to me that some people have a hard time believing what the Bible has to say. They read it and they ask, "What does that mean?" The answer is clear: The Bible says what it means, and means What it says. In the words of Paul, "**Let God be true, but every man a liar.**"

There is no need to try to explain away the running sores, the blood of a dead man, and the literal baking and burning of the backs of men. There is no need to try to explain away God's Word. If God sent real blood, real fire, real lice, real flies, real frogs, real darkness, real death to Egypt, then can He not do it again? Has God changed? You know the answer: "**God changes not!**" (Hebrews 13:8).

God has not changed His mind about sin, nor will He ever do so. One day the Mediterranean and other seas will change to the blood of a dead man. That will be a rotten, stinking, deplorable condition. All the fish, whales and all the sea monsters will die and begin to decay. Think of it! I am certainly glad I will not be here!

THE THIRD VIAL

Revelation 16:4-7

- 4. And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.**
- 5. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.**
- 6. For they have shed the Blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.**
- 7. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.**

In these verses we have the outline of what will happen when the third angel pours out his bowl of the fury of God upon this earth. Moses stretched out his hand upon the waters of Egypt, and all the waters in the river were turned to blood. The fish in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt (Exodus 7:20, 21). In Egypt, one river turned to blood; but in Revelation 16:4 every river on earth turns to blood, every fresh fountain of water turns to blood. The earth will have nothing but blood to drink!

MAY I HAVE YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION:

Every time you drink a glass of cold, sparkling, crystal-clear water, whether you be sinner or saint, you should breathe a prayer and say, "Thank you, God, for the water." There is no water in hell; the rich man has been begging for one drop of water for more than 1900 years!

When the third angel pours out his bowl of God's wrath upon this earth, there will not be one drop of fresh drinking water left. All waters will be changed into pure blood.

People will go to their iceboxes, open the door, take out a pitcher - no, it will not be tomato juice; it will be congealed blood!

They will go to the faucet and open it. At first they will say, "There is rust in the pipes." But it will not be rust - it will be blood! The longer they run it, the redder it gets. They will go to the fountains, mash the button - and blood will spurt forth.

In the name of all that is reasonable, if you are not saved can you afford to take a chance on being left if the Rapture should take place in the next sixty seconds?

You do not know that it will not. I am not trying to prove that it will - but I can prove that everything in the Bible that needs to be fulfilled before the Rapture of the Church has been literally fulfilled, is being fulfilled, before your very eyes this moment.

In Revelation 8:10-11, a third of the rivers became wormwood and many died because of the bitterness; but here the blood is universal. As the judgments come nearer the end, they become more severe, and they are worldwide. All of this terrible thing will begin in Jerusalem, but it will spread to the four corners of the earth.

No water to drink! Have you ever been thirsty? REAL thirsty? I was reared on the farm and I thought I knew what thirst was, until I went to the mission field and we went back into the jungles to visit the Pygmies in French Equatorial Africa. We traveled by truck, then by river boat, then by dugout canoe. Then we walked for thirty miles. Our water gave out, and we dared not drink the water in the streams because of the filth, germs and parasites.

The missionary warned us and watched us lest we drink the water. It was clear, it looked good - but it was filled with disease.

We walked for more than half a day in the hot African sun, and I discovered the real meaning of thirst. When we arrived at the missionary's home, we drank every drop of water in the house! The dear missionary's wife was forced to boil water, even for the evening meal. We emptied every container he had. Beloved, that is one time I said grace over water!

As I drank, I thought of hell and of the peoples on earth when every fresh fountain turns to blood.

Do you know the Lord? Are you born again? If you are not, then my dear friend you are headed for a place where there is no water, and never will be! God help you to give your heart to Jesus. Read II Peter 3:9, John 3:16-18.

When the angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains and they became blood, the angel of the waters said: "**Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shall be, because thou hast judged thus.**"

The angel of the waters was in perfect agreement with God's divine judgment. He justifies God's act by saying, "**For they have shed the Blood of saints and prophets**"; therefore, "**Thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.**"

Then another angel from the altar of God said, "**Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.**" The angels are saying, "Amen! Lord God Almighty, you are right! Let them drink blood. They shed the Blood of the saints; give them blood to drink! They are worthy, they deserve it!"

You may rest assured, sinner or saint, you will receive from the hand of God in judgment, exactly what YOU deserve - no more, no less. You will get what is coming to you. Men deliberately spurn God's love and refuse His mercy. God has stretched out His hand . . . they have paid no attention. Men set at naught God's counsel; they will not listen to His reproof. Therefore, God will pour out His fury upon them and He will laugh at their calamity. Read Proverbs 1. Men who take pleasure in sin and ungodliness must be damned (II Thessalonians 2:8-12; Deuteronomy 32:39-43; Isaiah 28:21).

THE FOURTH VIAL

Revelation 16:8-9:

- 8. And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.**
- 9. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.**

In Revelation 8:12 the heavenly bodies were affected. "**One-third**" were blacked out. But here it is altogether different. The power of the sun is increased until the terrific heat and blazes of fire from the sun scorch and burn the backs of men, roasting them. What a horrible thought! God takes His mighty hand, pushes the sun so near the earth that the sun-rays scorch the backs of earth's inhabitants! God created the sun, and it would be a small thing for Him to put it close enough to earth to scorch men. Both Moses and Malachi speak of a day in which it will "**BURN AS AN OVEN**," when men shall be "**DEVOURED WITH BURNING HEAT**" (Deuteronomy 32:24, Malachi 4:1).

Hear this solemn declaration: "**The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant . . . therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left**" (Isaiah 24:4-6).

Remember again: "**Except those days be shortened, there would be no flesh saved.**"

Some Bible teachers spiritualize this fire. God pity them! When this angel pours out his vial of wrath, the sun is smitten and sends forth rays that are so hot they burn men as if a blowtorch were turned on their backs.

The dwellers of the earth will be scorched with terrific heat. They are oppressed, burned, killed by the strong rays of the sun. They are smitten with sunstrokes, overwhelmed with heat, suffocated. And yet some Bible teachers spiritualize this judgment when the fourth angel pours out his vial of the wrath of God! God help them! I am glad I will not be standing in their shoes at the judgment of God. God, in this one of the last plagues, takes the beautiful, life-giving, earth-warming sun and turns it into a giant ball of tormenting fire. Can you imagine it? Can you picture it in your mind? Can you picture men and women with their backs, faces, arms, legs, a mass of giant blisters . . . parched, dried skin burned with intense heat. Can you imagine a sight like that?

You would think that everyone on earth would fall on their faces and cry out to God for mercy and beg God to save them - but according to the Word of God, those who are burned "**repented not to give Him the glory.**" Instead of repenting, they blasphemed God for sending such plagues upon them. You know why? They are sold under sin. They are marked for hell. They knew the truth but refused to accept it. They accepted Antichrist instead of Christ, and they bear the mark of the Beast.

They worship him . . . they were true to their god (the Antichrist) and therefore they are doomed and damned with him. What a terrible, horrible end for mankind - and yet millions will come to this fiery, blazing end.

When men know God but refuse to glorify Him as God; when men change the truth of God into a lie; when men refuse to keep God in their knowledge, God gives them up. Read carefully Romans 1:18 ff. The most dangerous thing in this world is for a man to know the way of God, hear the way of truth, and boldly refuse to follow God in truth.

THE FIFTH VIAL

Revelation 16:10-11:

- 10. And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,**
- 11. And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.**

You can see from this plague that all seven vials are poured out in rapid succession during a very short period of time. The people still have their sores. They received the sores when the first vial was poured out. Now the fifth vial is poured out, and the sores are still with them.

Get this picture if you can: First, men who have the mark of the Beast are covered with running, "**grievous**" sores. Next, the sea turns to the blood of a dead man, and all life in the sea dies. Then, all the fresh water is turned to blood and people have only blood to drink. To make conditions worse, the sun then burns men so that they are scorched with blistering heat. God then blacks out the entire universe, and people move about in gross darkness. Their pain is so unbearable they **GNAW THEIR TONGUES AND CURSE GOD!**

Isaiah foresaw that day and he wrote about it: "**Behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people.**" (Isaiah 60:2).

Joel saw that day: "**The day of the Lord cometh . . . a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness . . . the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood. . . .**" (Joel 2:1, 2, 31).

Nahum saw that dreadful day. He said that God will pour out His fury like fire upon the people. "**Darkness shall pursue His enemies**" (Nahum 1:6-8).

Jesus said, "**. . . In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars of heaven shall fall . . .**" (Mark 13:24, 25).

There will be total darkness over all the earth. There will be no moon, no sun, no stars - only inky, black, total darkness.

There are some who spiritualize the darkness and symbolize the gnawing of tongues because of pain.

But as always, unless God definitely tells me that it is symbolic or spiritual, I read it and take it literally - just as I accept the virgin birth, the crucifixion, the shed blood, the resurrection. I do not spiritualize those things; why should I spiritualize the darkness, the blood, the sores - and the fact that people will be in such agony they will chew their tongues and the pain will not be noticed, compared with the other torment they will be enduring at that time!

The last time the entire earth was totally blacked out was when Jesus hung on the cross. He was paying the sin-debt. He took the sinner's place . . . outer darkness forever. Jesus suffered all the agony, pain and misery of an eternal hell for you and me. No, He did not go to the fires of hell, but He suffered all the agony, even the darkness.

Verse 11 is very needful and enlightening. These people who are in such agony do not fall on their faces and beg God for mercy. They curse God and blaspheme His name. They do not repent. These people have been sent strong delusions. They believed The Lie - they must be damned.

THE SIXTH VIAL

Revelation 16:12:

12. And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

There is only one "**great river Euphrates.**" Since the sores were literal, the blood, the heat and the darkness were literal, why should not this be a literal river?

It is! You will recall that God on one occasion rolled back the Red Sea (and on another occasion, the River Jordan), in order to prepare a way for His people.

These miracles were a blessing to God's people - but they also brought judgment upon the enemy. When God rolled back the waters of the Red Sea, He prepared the way of deliverance for Israel, which also was a way of destruction for Pharaoh and his mighty army, who were trying to destroy Israel. When God rolled back the River Jordan, He prepared the way for the destruction of the wicked city of Jericho and the giant confederation of the Canaanites.

The Euphrates River has been a great dividing line for ages, dividing the countries of the east from those of the west in that part of the world. This river is 1780 miles long, from 300 to 1200 yards wide, and its depth ranges from ten to thirty feet. Most of the year it is even larger, depending upon the rainfall. It was the boundary of Solomon's kingdom. It is spoken of as the northeast limit of the land promised to Israel (Genesis 15:18; Deuteronomy 11:24; Joshua 1:4).

History testifies to the great hindrance this river has afforded to armies down through the ages.

The drying up of the Euphrates, as set forth in our present study, will prepare the way and open the door to allow the gigantic eastern armies to cross the country and assemble around the Antichrist.

This will be the “**great day of God Almighty.**” Isaiah saw this day when he said, “**With His mighty wind shall He shake His hand over the river (Euphrates) and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dry shod.**” Read carefully Zechariah 10:11 and Jeremiah 51:36.

At the drying up of the river, John sees something else:

In I Kings 22:20-22 we read, “**And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him. And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.**”

The Lord gave permission for a lying spirit to be in the mouth of Ahab's prophets. They prophesied lies to him, he went up to Ramoth-gilead, was killed, and the dogs licked his blood. A spirit from hell was allowed to go forth to inflame and deceive Ahab and to cause him to walk directly into a death trap. So it will be with the kings of earth when the three evil spirits shall deceive them and bring them in for the battle of “**God Almighty.**”

In the case of Ahab it was “**one evil spirit,**” but in our Scripture in Revelation it is “**three unclean spirits,**” which are termed the “**spirits of demons**” and are likened unto frogs - loathsome, filthy, disgusting, bred out of the quagmire of the universe. These are sent out on their terrible mission.

THREE UNCLEAN SPIRITS

Revelation 16:13-16:

- 13. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.**
- 14. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.**
- 15. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.**
- 16. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.**

At this period of the reign of the Antichrist, all the kings of earth have bowed to his commands and are allied with him in all-out war to crush the remnant of Israel who have refused to accept the false messiah or to receive his mark. In order to congregate all these kings and their armies in one place at one time for the last great slaughter, God does two things:

1. He dries up the great river Euphrates that would hinder their movements toward Jerusalem.
2. He allows three demon spirits to go out and draw the kings and their armies to Jerusalem for the battle.

God has not changed since Old Testament days.

These spirits have power to work miracles - satanic miracles - and through these miracles the multitudes who are following the Antichrist will be deceived. Through the power and unusual miracles of the spirits, all the followers of the satanic trinity will be stirred up to declare war on the Lamb and His followers who are in Jerusalem.

The whole satanic system responds, and unites to march to Jerusalem for the great battle - and they will find the going easy since Euphrates, the great natural barrier, is dried up.

This is not the only mention of these evil spirits.

Paul warns that in the last days seducing spirits will come, teaching lies. Read the account in I Timothy 4:1-6.

With holy irony the Holy Spirit dictates these memorable words to Joel: "**Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord**" (Joel 3:9-11).

Here is a word-picture of that great gathering for the great battle: "**... The heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing ... The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision (confusion)" (Psalm 2:1-4).**

Read the entire second Psalm for the picture of that great day when the armies of Christ and Antichrist meet around Jerusalem in the valley of Armageddon.

In verse 15 John gives a solemn warning: "**Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.**" Why is this strange announcement here?

The voice of Jesus is making this announcement. These words sound like the words which Jesus Christ our Lord spoke to the Church concerning the Rapture, but since the Church was raptured almost seven years previous to this Scripture, how does this announcement apply here? For whom is Jesus coming? Revelation 15:2 gives a picture of the group for whom Jesus is coming at this stage in the pouring out of the seven vials.

During the reign of Antichrist, not all will bow down and worship him, nor will all receive his mark. Most of those who refuse to do so will be killed, but some will live through it all, up to the pouring out of the seventh vial. It is for these faithful ones that Jesus comes just before the great Battle of Armageddon begins. They will be supernaturally removed from the earth, and those who have been killed will be raised and given a new body. Revelation 6:9-11 gives a picture of these martyrs - but they must be faithful unto the end if they would be in that number (Matthew 24:13).

Final judgment cannot be poured out until every righteous one is out of the range of God's fury.

It was thus in the days of the flood. Not one drop of rain fell until Noah was in the ark and "the Lord shut the door" (Genesis 7:1-16).

It was likewise in the days of Sodom. Lot was a just (righteous) man (II Peter 2:6-8), and God could not destroy Sodom until Lot was safely outside the city.

Read the entire nineteenth chapter of Genesis, noting especially verse 22: "**Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither!**"

The Church - the Bride of Christ - will not go through one day of the Great Tribulation (Revelation 3:10; 4:1-3). So it will be in the darkest hour of all human history . . . every God-fearing person must be removed before Almighty God thrusts in the sharp sickle (the Word) to reap the earth. "**And He gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon**" (Revelation 16:16).

Armageddon means *Mount of Megiddo*, which takes in the plain of Jezreel, the great valley that runs through the middle of the Holy Land from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River. It is approximately two hundred miles long and ten miles wide. The name comes from a Hebrew root which means "*to cut off*," and that is exactly what God will do in that great hour! This valley has been a place of slaughter down through the ages. It was the great battlefield of the Old Testament. Judges 5:19 tells us that "**the kings came and fought . . . by the waters of Megiddo.**" II Chronicles 35:22 tells us that "**Josiah came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.**"

The sixth vial brings all the kings of earth, with their armies, to the valley of slaughter. All is now ready for the last vial to be poured out. What a sight! Jerusalem is now surrounded by armies; there are millions of soldiers with their kings. They are determined to wipe the names of God and Jesus from the earth and from the memory of man. But alas! What a deluge of blood they are to enter. Two hundred miles of blood - six feet deep and ten miles wide (Revelation 14:20).

Are YOU saved, dear reader? Amen! if you are; but woe be unto you if you are not! Repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and be saved NOW! (John 5:24, Romans 10:9,10).

THE SEVENTH VIAL

Revelation 16:17-21:

17. **And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.**
18. **And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.**
19. **And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.**
20. **And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.**
21. **And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.**

“And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, IT IS DONE!”

From the seat of the Judge of all, we have the announcement that it is done. This is the climax! When Jesus paid the supreme price for the redemption of sinners, just before He died He cried, **“IT IS FINISHED!”** On the Cross He finished redemption for the soul. Nothing more can be added. Redemption of the soul is complete in Jesus. And now, the judgment of the earth is done. It, too, is finished! Jesus Christ is about to rid the earth of the dragon, the Beast, and the false prophet. The contents of the little seven-sealed book are completed. Every minute detail has been carried out and the whole creation at last will stop **“groaning and travailing in pain”** (Romans 8:22). IT IS DONE! HALLELUJAH!

The events which follow the pouring out of the seventh vial are without parallel in human history.

Never has there been such calamity, confusion, chaos, discomfiture, discord, agitation, upheaval and such cataclysmic manifestations upon this earth as will be when the seventh vial is emptied! The air will go into mighty convulsions. There will be lightnings, thunderings, and voices. This vial is poured into the air; the air is first affected, and then the judgment moves down to earth.

Many of the prophets foretold these days when the heavens would undergo terrific judgments. Read Psalm 102:25,26 and Isaiah 51:6.

Matthew 24:29 and Hebrews 12:25-26 refer to the shaking of the powers of the heavens. Peter tells us that the heavens shall pass away with a great noise (explosion) and the elements will melt with fervent heat (II Peter 3:10-12). (This refers to the first and second heavens, where the clouds and stars are, not to the abode of God, which is the third Heaven - II Corinthians 12:1-4). Isaiah says that the Lord of hosts shall visit “**with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, and with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire**” (Isaiah 29:6).

Psalm 50:3-4 tells us, “**Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people.**”

In Revelation 17 the kingdom of Satan is crumbling.

He has been prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2) for six thousand years, but his rule is about over. The elements have turned on him and the air is turned into liquid fire!

The situation on earth is no better: “**And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.**” This is the time of which Isaiah was speaking when he said the Lord would arise “**to shake terribly the earth**” (Isaiah 2:19-21). Haggai recorded it in these words: “**Yet once . . . and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations . . .**” (Haggai 2:6, 7).

Revelation 16:19 gives us some idea of the terror and the greatness of this earthquake: “**And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.**”

Please note that the “**great city**” (Jerusalem) is shaken into three parts; and that all the other cities are reduced to total ruin.

Can you imagine an earthquake so great and so powerful that it levels all the cities of the earth? Jerusalem is now protected from total ruin because it is in part possessed and appropriated as being the Lord’s (Revelation 11:1,2). This earthquake will be so powerful that the Mount of Olives will break in half, with one half moving toward the east and the other toward the west. Read Zechariah 14:4; 13:8-9. Here we have two parts of the land cut off, destroyed . . . one part is preserved . . . “**I will bring the third part through the fire.**” I believe this verse refers to the time of our Scripture in Revelation 16:19.

All the cities of earth are ruined in this gigantic earthquake . . . yes, even those great and powerful cities of Rome, Cairo, London, and New York! Can you imagine the death and destruction of such an hour?

This is it! This is the end of the systems of the devil and his henchmen . . . Verses 20 and 21: **“And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.”**

Men must spend billions of dollars on bombs, planes, ships and guns in order to carry on war; but not so with God. He uses mountains for tanks and islands for torpedoes!

In chapter 6, the mountains moved out of their places, and when men prayed and begged the mountains to fall on them and hide them **“from the face of Him who sitteth on the throne,”** they refused to obey; but now it is different. The Tribulation is about over. If those days were not shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake God will shorten them.

Jeremiah 4:23-26: **“I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by His fierce anger.”**

But that is not all:

From the sky fell hailstones weighing about a talent. Talents varied in weight at the time of the writing of Revelation. The Jewish talent of silver was 115 pounds, while all others were 135 pounds. An Egyptian talent was 86 pounds. In Antioch, they used talents of 390 pounds. So, whatever the weight, these hailstones are tremendous, even if they weigh only the smallest talent.

Have you ever been in a hailstorm? The largest hail I have ever seen was about an inch and a half in diameter . . . about the size of a hen egg. I cannot imagine pieces of ice that will weigh between one hundred and four hundred pounds, falling out of the clouds! Imagine the chaos this will bring upon this old earth! But what effect did this great deluge of hail have upon men? **“And men blasphemed God because of the plague of hail.”**

It would seem that by this time, someone would be praying . . . but no, they have sold out to sin and the devil for eternity, and there is no repentance for them!

What about YOU, dear reader? Are you saved? Do you know Jesus? Have you crossed the deadline? Please get this picture of what sin finally pays in wages:

These people who are cursing God in Revelation 16:21 are those who chose Antichrist instead of Christ.

They accepted the mark of the Beast and worshipped him.

Whom have YOU accepted, dear reader? At whose feet are you worshipping? You are either on God’s side or on the side of the devil, for there is no middle ground.

These people were marked to receive the outpouring of the vials of God's wrath, and the first vial covered them with vile, running, odorous sores. Then the sea was changed into the blood of a dead man and every living thing in it died. This means that every beach and shoreline was filled with dead, rotting carcasses. What a foul time that will be!

But that is not all: In the midst of all this, they are given nothing but blood to drink. All the fountains of water are turned into blood! Their misery is then increased by heat which is so intense that it literally blisters their skin and burns them into such agony that they curse God because of the heat.

God then blacks out the universe, and in the total darkness they gnaw their tongues for pain. What agony!

But the worst is yet to come:

From the removing of the first seal in Revelation 6:1 to the outpouring of the last vial in Revelation 16:17 every phase of judgment becomes more and more severe. Undoubtedly the seventh vial is what Heaven saw when it was silent for the space of half an hour (Revelation 8:1).

Giant hailstones fell from Heaven . . . pieces of ice weighing more than a hundred pounds each. No wonder there would no flesh be left on earth if those days were not shortened!

But thank God, the born again will not be here, for we will be in the air with our blessed Lord. Thank you, Jesus, for saving my soul! Thank you, Jesus, for making a way of escape! Do you know Him, dear soul? If you do, then bow your head right now and thank Him for saving you. Then pray for others who read these lines, that they, too, may be saved. Dear sinner, repent and be saved right now!

~ end of chapter 16 ~

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